

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-8 as presented in the underlying International Application No. PCT/DE03/03350.

Please add new claims 9-19 as indicated in the listing of claims below.

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (new): A method for touchless recognition of at least one biometric attribute of a body part comprising:

capturing a plurality of first optical images of the body part from a first point of view using a first imaging device;

capturing a plurality of second optical images of the body part from a second point of view using a second imaging device;

monitoring and/or checking at least one of an attitude and a position of the body part; and

correcting, where necessary, at least one of the plurality of first images and the plurality of second images with reference to the attitude or position using a shape of the body part, wherein at least one of the observing and correcting is performed using an interaction between the first and second imaging devices so as to determine a desired position, attitude and angle of rotation.

Claim 10 (new): The method as recited in claim 9, wherein the body part is a finger.

Claim 11 (new): The method as recited in claim 10, wherein the at least one biometric attribute includes a finger line pattern.

Claim 12 (new): The method as recited in claim 9, further comprising creating a spatial, three-dimensional profile of the body part.

Claim 13 (new): The method as recited in claim 12 wherein the three-dimensional profile includes a profile of a surface of the body part.

Claim 14 (new): The method as recited in claim 9, wherein the image sharpness is used as a criterion for reaching the desired position.

Claim 15 (new): The method as recited in claim 9, further comprising applying a transformation of the at least one biometric attribute of the body part to a predetermined normal attitude and normal position of one of a reference model and a reference image using measured values of the position and/or the attitude

Claim 16 (new): The method as recited in claim 15, further comprising providing at least one of an optical and an acoustical feedback when a secure recognition is not possible despite the calculational transformation.

Claim 17 (new): The method as recited in claim 16, wherein the feedback includes an indication of a type and direction of a change of attitude and/or position required for a secure recognition.

Claim 18 (new): The method as recited in claim 11, wherein the finger and its shape are imaged and processed from the tip of the finger to at least beyond the adjacent joint and wherein at least one angle of the joint is used for the observing, the checking and/or the correcting of the images.

Claim 19 (new): The method as recited in claim 11, further comprising using the fingernail surface visible from the different points of view for determining the degree of rotation.